



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and Facilities
DATE: 05/09/2017
SUBJECT: Blyth Rail Trail Overpass on Blyth Greenway Trail
ATTACHMENTS: [Click here to enter text.](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby accept the report of the Director of Recreation and Facilities for information purposes;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron supports re-opening the Blyth Rail Trail Overpass for one year, and consider the required repairs during the 2018 budget deliberations, and direct staff to discuss with G to G Trail Committee and the Snowmobile Club opportunities for financial support for the repair project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rail Trail Overpass at the east end of the Blyth Greenway Trail was closed on Monday July 10, 2017 to all traffic. One of the rail ties failed, leaving an empty opening on the bridge deck. A bridge inspection was performed by BM Ross Engineering, and this report summarizes their findings and recommendations for next steps.

DISCUSSION

The land used for the Blyth Greenway Trail is leased from the Province of Ontario. As part of that lease, a bridge inspection on the rail trail overpass was required prior to September 30, 2017. Coincidentally one of the rail ties failed leaving a large opening on the deck and the bridge was closed to traffic on Monday July 10, 2017. It was prudent to have the bridge inspected before taking steps to making repairs or re-opening the overpass.

BM Ross Engineering visited the site on July 21, 2017 and performed a structural inspection. Attached to this report is a summary letter from BM Ross that makes up part of the structural inspection report. The following is an excerpt from the letter:

It is our opinion that the bridge is safe for normal pedestrian use and for the 7 ton trail groomer for one year in its current condition, if the gap from the missing deck plan is covered from curb to curb with plywood. Within one year, the wood deck should be replaced or reassessed for strength. The other work should be done within five years.

The detailed engineering report included the following required work and cost estimates:

Replace wood deck	\$9,500
Replace barriers	\$4,800
Clean and paint beams/MLE's	\$5,000
Scale loose concrete from abutments	\$4,000
Cast bearing seats on abutments	\$2,500
Engineering and contingencies	\$7,500
Site mobilization and demobilization	\$5,000
Total	\$38,300

It is the opinion of staff that cost savings can be achieved on this project by using internal forces to perform some of the work; for example rebuilding the deck and barriers, and cleaning and painting the beams.

Staff will continue to investigate the proposed work with the intention to perform it over the Spring/Summer of 2018. Council will have an opportunity to review this information and costing during the 2018 budget discussions. At that time staff will have more accurate pricing, and information from G to G Trail Committee and the Snowmobile Club on any potential funding support.

Presently, staff are working to close the gap on the deck as prescribed by BM Ross and re-open the Rail Trail Overpass for pedestrians for the remainder of the trail season, and for the 2017/18 snowmobile season.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The immediate repairs to the deck and the engineering report are expensed to the Blyth Parks Repairs and Maintenance budget which has adequate funds for this expense.

Future discussions on the larger repairs will be discussed with the 2018 budget planning.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Staff will reach out to G to G Trail Committee and the Snowmobile club for financial support for the project.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Our natural environment is valued and protected.

Our community is attractive and welcoming to new businesses and residents.



Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and Facilities



Larry McGregor,
Interim CAO/Director of Public Works